

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

09/136,244

08/19/98

BEIZER

M

76179DAN

EXAMINER

TM02/0605

MARY LOU WAKIMURA
HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.
TWO MILITIA DRIVE
LEXINGTON MA 02421-4799

COLBERT, E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED:

06/05/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/136,244

Applicant(s)

BEIZER ET AL.

Examiner

Ella Colbert

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-58 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 1-58 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 28, and 37 have been amended in this communication filed 03/13/01, entered as Request for CPA, paper number 11.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (US 5,819,295) Nakagawa et al, hereafter Nakagawa and (US 5,873,103) Trede et al, hereafter Trede.

With respect to claim 1, Nakagawa teaches the at least one structured workfolder for storing and organizing electronic documents (col. 2, lines 30-40) and the workfolder containing a contents element for storing primary data, the contents element containing one or more placeholders for reserving a slot within said workfolder for documents expected to be added to the workfolder via the placeholder (col. 2, lines 30-56). Nakagawa did not teach, "placeholders for reserving a slot" (col. 7, lines 20).

The Trede et al reference teaches "placeholders for reserving a slot" It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of using structured workfolders for documents at the time the invention was made to use placeholders to reserve a slot

Art Unit: 2172

by incorporating the teachings of Nakgawa in Trede as taught by Trede because this facilitates the use of holding a place in a hierarchical file system of folders for managing electronic documents when old versions of documents are stored or moved (Nakagawa reference, col. 2, lines 10-21).

With respect to claim 2, Nakagawa teaches, the contents element further contains one or more section elements for categorizing the primary data (col. 2, lines 42-48 and col. 3, lines 64-67 and col. 4, lines 1-12).

With respect to claim 3, Nakgawa teaches, a link to a document, and a nested section element (col. 7, lines 18-56). Nakgawa did not teach, the section elements contains one or more of a placeholder. Trede teaches the section elements contains one or more of a placeholder (col. 6, lines 32-60). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of linking a document and a nested section element at the time the invention was made to have the section elements to contain one or more placeholders by incorporating the teachings of Nakgawa in Trede as taught by Trede because this facilitates the use of holding a place in a hierarchical file system of folders for managing electronic documents and section elements when documents are classified in the different layers and linked according to the hierarchical structure (Nakagawa reference col. 7, lines 18-21).

With respect to claim 4, Nakgawa teaches, the link identifies a document embedded in the workfolder (col. 8, lines 20-65).

With respect to claim 5, Nakagawa teaches, the link identifies a document external to the workfolder (col. 7, lines 19-26 and fig. 2).

With respect to claim 6, the contents element further contains at least one link to a document (col. 7, lines 19-22 and fig. 2.).

With respect to claim 7, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 4.

With respect to claim 8, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 5.

With respect to claim 9, Nakagawa teaches, a name field for indicating the data content of the document to be placed in the workfolder and a file object hook to which the primary data document can later be linked (col. 7, lines 39-63).

With respect to claim 10, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 9.

With respect to claim 11, Nakagawa teaches, a status element indicating a status for a document linked to the placeholder (col. 4, lines 66-67, col. 5, lines 1-25, and col. 18-56).

With respect to claim 12, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 11.

With respect to claim 13, Nakagawa teaches, a deadline element including a field indicating a time period for taking a particular action associated with the placeholder (col. 5, lines 32-43).

With respect to claim 14, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 13.

With respect to claim 15, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 1.

With respect to claim 16, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 1.

With respect to claim 17, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 1.

With respect to claim 18, Nakagawa teaches, the workfolder further comprises a task data element containing one or more tasks which define a set of steps required to complete a unit of work, each task having a name field ... (col. 11, lines 18-29).

With respect to claim 19, Nakagawa teaches, the task element further comprises an assignment field for indicating one or more users responsible for performing the particular task (col. 11, lines 63-67 and col. 12, lines 1-5).

With respect to claim 20, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 13.

With respect to claim 21, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 14.

With respect to claim 22, Nakagawa teaches, the workfolder further comprises meta-data related to the primary data stored under the contents node (col. 7, lines 57-67 and col. 8, lines 1-12).

With respect to claim 23, Nakagawa teaches, the meta-data comprises a history element for storing a log of changes made to the workfolder (col.9, lines 10-35).

Art Unit: 2172

With respect to claim 24, Nakagawa teaches, the changes made to the workfolder, the log contains data fields for including information indicating at least one change was made, ... (col. 8, lines 39-67 and col. 9, lines 1-25).

With respect to claim 25, Nakagawa teaches, user-definable data fields relating to one or more properties of the workfolder (col. 8, lines 51-65).

With respect to claim 26, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 12.

With respect to claim 27, Nakagawa teaches, one or more embedded computer program scripts which provide functions related to the workfolder when the scripts are executed by the computer (col. 1, lines 24-35).

With respect to claims 28-31, these claims are rejected for the similar rationale given for claims 1, 2, 18, and 22. Nakagawa did not teach, a template, but it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of creating one or more instances of a structured workfolder at the time the invention was made to use a template for this purpose because a template is well known in the art as a pattern for arranging or matching things and a template in this instance can be used for matching instances of a structured workfolder.

With respect to claim 32, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 23.

With respect to claim 33, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 24.

Art Unit: 2172

With respect to claim 34, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale for claim 26.

With respect to claim 35, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 27.

With respect to claim 36, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given above for claim 25.

With respect to claim 37, creating a structured workfolder root node, the root node containing a contents element for storing primary data (col. 2, lines 30-65 and col. 6, lines 46-54), and creating at least one placeholder reserving a slot within the workfolder for documents expected to be linked to the workfolder via a placeholder (col. 2, lines 30-56).

With respect to claim 38, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 2.

With respect to claim 39, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 3.

With respect to claim 40, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 3.

With respect to claim 41, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claims 1 and 4-7.

With respect to claim 42, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 8.

Art Unit: 2172

With respect to claim 43, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 10.

With respect to claim 44, Nakagawa teaches, providing limits on at least one of the file name and file type of a document which can be linked to the placeholder (col. 7, lines 18-56).

With the respect to claim 45, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 11.

With respect to claim 46, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 12.

With respect to claim 47, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 13.

With respect to claim 48, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 15.

With respect to claim 49, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 16.

With respect to claim 50, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 17.

With respect to claim 51, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 18.

With respect to claim 52, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 19.

Art Unit: 2172

With respect to claim 53, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 19.

With respect to claim 54, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 22.

With respect to claim 55, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 23.

With respect to claim 56, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 25.

With respect to claim 57, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 26.

With respect to claim 58, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 27.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Carter et al (US 5,987,506) taught a file system with a tree directory.

Almond et al (US 6,112,024) taught a meta model with versions of objects and nodes.

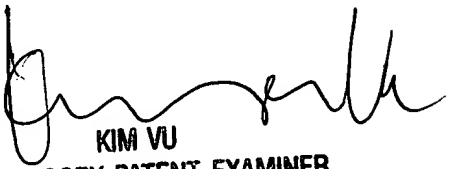
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ella Colbert whose telephone number is 703-308-7064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 am -5:00 pm.

Art Unit: 2172

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on 703-305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-9051 for regular communications and 703-308-9051 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-96000.

E. Colbert
June 1, 2001


KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100